

The City
of



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CITY OF NEWTON
P.O. Box 550
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Newton

NEWSLETTER

www.newtonnc.gov



(828) 695-4300

City Council identifies top priorities, actions

The Newton City Council held its annual planning workshop in February at the Newton Depot. Throughout the three-day workshop, the Council heard from staff members and participated in a visioning exercise.

The workshop opened with a mid-year financial report and review of the capital improvement plan for Fiscal Year 2013. Representatives from Catawba County Economic Development Corporation delivered a presentation on current economic realities and emerging trends.

The Newton Business Advisory Committee provided an update on the wayfinding signage program and shared a presentation on commercial development.

The Council engaged in a day-long brainstorming and visioning exercise, which culminated with the identification of the its top priorities and actions.

Mayor Anne P. Stedman said, "We were able to create and prioritize a list of projects and ideas for Newton that maintains our traditions yet addresses our growing needs."

The Council discussed several broad themes including public safety, economic development, infrastructure,



finances, appearance, downtown, quality of life and core values.

Of the 23 initiatives within those themes, the City Council identified building a new fire department, continued fiscal responsibility, water line expansions and increasing the tax base as the top priorities and actions.

City staff members are developing a plan that defines objectives and tasks for each priority and assesses the initiatives' feasibility. Council will receive regular reports from staff as projects progress.

2013 City Council Meetings

The Newton City Council holds its regular meetings at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 N. Main Ave.

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|----------------|----------------|
| ■ April 2 & 16 | ■ September 3 |
| ■ May 7 & 21 | ■ October 1&15 |
| ■ June 4 & 18 | ■ November 12 |
| ■ July 9 | ■ December 3 |
| ■ August 6 | |

Inside this Issue

Message from the Mayor 2
Pictures of Success 3
Unity Day Festival 4
Swimming Pool 4

Movies at the Park 4
Teen Leadership 5
Partnership 5
Appearance Commission 6

Tree/Lawn Permits 6
Asst. City Manager 7
Awards 7
Meeting Schedule 8

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On Groundhog Day, Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring. Do we believe that a giant rodent can foretell the future of the weather?

Professionally trained “meteorologists” can hardly predict what will happen on any given day, so we usually resort to a look out the window for a weather update. But, sure enough, daffodils started blooming quite early this year.

Punxsutawney Phil was right! Spring has arrived! Just the thought gives me a new lease on life. Everything is new and fresh. And unlike the movie “Groundhog Day” new beginnings and a change from the old grind are a welcome gift from the cold harsh winds of winter.

And, as the movie “Groundhog Day” meant that every day was the same, we know that change happens every day.

As your mayor, I see that change is inevitable. So I have to ask myself, “Do I want our city to react to change or do I want to create change?”

During our workshop in February, we enlisted the services of a consultant to help us vision a future for Newton.

With a list of priorities, we are now challenged to start the process with a strategic plan. Among the list of priorities, we will focus on water line extensions and address the pressing needs of our fire department. We also agreed to continue a tradition of overall fiscal responsibility.

As the budget process is about to begin, the Council knows that there are pressures on our budget as well as pressures on our residents. I promise you, we will work hard to keep both in check.

I also know that we care about the character of our town. We love the quaint charm of our downtown and its walkability. In recent months, we’ve seen some significant changes.

Our options are growing: from retail to restaurants to services to movies to art, you can hang out downtown for your every need!

I hope you’ll continue to support these and all of our businesses throughout town with your pocketbooks! They are the backbone of our community.

It’s in the history books. I’m proud to say that we can add a new title to our young athletes from Newton-Conover High School. The wrestling team won the 2013 State Wrestling Championship. Congratulations!

We are very proud of these boys and all of our athletes. They continue a long tradition of excellence.

I’d also like to welcome Sean Hovis to our staff as the Assistant City Manager/Planning Director. Sean comes to Newton from our neighboring town to the west. He has more than 20 years of experience in local government with the City of Hickory. I know that he, too, will continue our long tradition of excellence!

Spring is a time to get active. More and more people can be seen walking their dogs, jogging and just enjoying a day in the park. Many options await you.

Among them is a new trail for biking or hiking. Jacob’s Fork Park Mountain Bike Trail is a 2.5 mile trail forged by the Catawba County Heritage Alliance along with many volunteers. It was completed over the winter and awaits you, your family and your dog.

While you’re out there, bring your kayak. Jacob’s Fork Park is the place where the Jacob Fork River and the South Fork River converge. It’s there that you will find a canoe launch. Also don’t forget that the Greenway Trail continues to inspire the inner spirit of the nature lover.

As warmer weather takes us outside, we have a special festival to look forward to.

This year the City-Wide Yard Sale will be held downtown and will segue into our Unity Day Festival. When the Unity Day Festival concludes at 5 p.m., the Festival and Events Committee will host a band on the Square.

I hope you will bring your family and friends for a fun day filled with activities, food and entertainment.

As I’ve said before, it takes a lot to run a city. I would like to encourage all of you to be a part of the process.

Volunteer! We want to tap into the local source of expertise, talent and manpower for the greater good of Newton. It is a great way to solve community issues, meet new friends and gain the satisfaction of making a difference in your community. We will do our best to match your skills with our needs.

Together we’ll make this a better place to call home. If you would like to volunteer, call me at (828) 465-0404.

Look for me and my dog, Rufus, on the trails!

Sincerely,
Anne P. Stedman
Mayor



Pictures of Success in Newton!



The City of Newton in the first quarter of 2013 joined three businesses for ribbon cutting ceremonies. The City also joined the Catawba County Historical Association Museum of History in celebrating the re-opening of the museum, which had been closed for renovations and repairs.

Support your local economy by visiting these businesses in Newton:

1) Back in Time Amusements
815 W. US Hwy 70
(828) 464-5680

3) Marie and Twannette's Bakery and Cafe
31 N. College Ave.
(828) 465-0052

2) Martha's Bargain Thrift Store and Consignment
2704 N. Main Ave.
(828) 381-1234

4) Catawba County Historical Association
Museum of History
30 N. College Ave.
(828) 465-0383

Teens learn about community leadership



Above: Teen Leadership Newton took a trip to Raleigh this year and met with NC Sen. Austin Allran and NC Rep. Andy Wells. The students also met NC Lt. Gov. Dan Forest. Below: Mayor Anne P. Stedman distributed certificates to Teen Leadership Newton participants following their presentations to the Newton City Council.

The environment, quality of life and drugs were the hot topics this year for our Teen Leadership Newton program. Eighteen students from Newton-Conover and Discovery high schools participated in the program, which concluded with the students' presentations to the City Council.

Teen Leadership Newton is a 5-week program that develops future community leaders. Students learn about the qualities and character of leaders and also gain knowledge about parliamentary procedure and the City Council's role.

This year, students experienced leadership first-hand by meeting with governmental, business and non-profit leaders. They took a trip to Raleigh and engaged in a discussion with NC Sen. Austin Allran concerning technology in schools. NC Rep. Andy Wells also greeted the students. Later, the group toured the historic Hawkins-Hartness House and met NC Lt. Gov. Dan Forest.

Students also took business and industry tours where they heard from Dale Mull at Flowers Baking Company, Sherry Butler at Old Post Office Playhouse and Becky and John Stiver at 2 Pink Magnolias.

Visit the City's Facebook page to see more photos from the program. Congratulations to our 2013 participants!

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Sam Abernathy | ■ Stephen Bechtel | ■ Wilson Elliott | ■ Alex Howell | ■ Sarahi Robles | ■ Andrew Thavychith |
| ■ Olivia Abernathy | ■ Jessica Benitez | ■ Turner Glynn | ■ Ashlyn Karre | ■ Karis Shook | ■ Taylor Thompson |
| ■ Jorge Bautista | ■ Sophie Davis | ■ Rachael Hamm | ■ Camaron Loritts | ■ Niamh Sinclair | ■ Phillip Wagner |



Want to learn more about the two initiatives featured on this page? *Catawba Communities* highlights the partnership between NCCS and the Newton Police Department in the March episode. The April episode will highlight the Teen Leadership Newton program. *Catawba Communities* airs at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays on Charter Communications Channel 3. You can also view the episodes online at www.youtube.com/cityofnewtonnc.

Newton police, schools partner at elementary schools

The Newton Police Department and Newton-Conover City Schools in January announced a new partnership that introduced police presence and visibility at South Newton and Thornton elementary schools.

The two elementary schools now house offices that Newton police officers may use in the normal course of their day. The schools will not be assigned a specific officer, but any Newton police officer may stop at either school at any time and use the available office space to complete administrative tasks.

Police officers also will keep an eye on school grounds and may have lunch at the school to familiarize themselves with the student body.

The Newton Police Department also provides a school resource officer at Newton-Conover High School.

Newton Police Chief Don Brown said, "We feel the presence of police officers will provide another layer of security for the schools and its students. This partnership is an opportunity for the city and schools to work together to strengthen our community."

NCCS Associate Superintendent Dr. David Stegall said, "Having police officers on campus will enhance the security measures that are already in place. Additionally, students will get the opportunity to interact with the police officers, which will encourage responsible behavior as they grow up."

Upcoming Events

Unity Day Festival set for May 18

Join us on Saturday, May 18 for the Unity Day Festival sponsored by Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet. There are many changes this year, as the festival will combine the City-Wide Yard Sale, Unity Day and Newton Nights together in the downtown area.

The day kicks off with the 8th Annual City-Wide Yard Sale at 7 a.m. hosted by the Newton Festival and Events Committee. The yard sale will take place on the streets between South Brady and South Ashe and between A and C streets. Spaces are available for \$5. Vendor set-up begins at 5 a.m. Commercial vendors are prohibited.

Registration forms are available online at www.newtonnc.gov, at the Newton Recreation Center, 23 S. Brady Ave. and at City Hall, 401 North Main Ave. To register, send a completed registration form, along with \$5 (cash or check payable to City of Newton) to Citywide Yard Sale, c/o Newton Recreation Center, PO Box 550, Newton, NC 28658. Advance registration is required to participate in this event.

At 11 a.m. the Unity Day Celebration hosted by the Human Relations Council begins downtown with the annual Parade of Flags.

The mission of Unity Day is to bring the communities of the City of Newton together in unity and love; to promote positive multi-cultural relations and harmony throughout the City; to bring everyone together by raising the public's vision above barriers of color, culture and creed; and to celebrate the value and respect for diversity through dance, music and food.

Come listen to the live entertainment from local performers and taste cuisines from around the world.

There will be plenty to do with craft vendors to explore and children's activities on hand. The Unity Day Award

will be presented during the celebration.

At 5 p.m. Newton Nights will keep downtown alive with high-energy, live music from Baby Black.

For more information about the City-Wide Yard Sale, contact Festival & Events Chairperson Catherine LeFevers in the evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at (828) 464-8922 or the Newton Recreation Center at (828) 695-4317.

To keep up with the latest news on the festival visit www.newtonnc.gov, or contact Public Information Officer Julie Chang at (828) 695-4266 or jchang@newtonnc.gov.



Swimming pool opens in June

Cool off this summer at the City of Newton's swimming pool. The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce the opening of the pool on Monday, June 3. Public swimming is available Monday through Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$1 for children up to 5 years old, \$2 for adults ages 62 and older, \$3 for children ages 6-17 and \$4 for adults ages 18-61.

Groups such as daycares, summer camps, school classes, clubs and others are welcome to the pool for \$3 per child, with a minimum of 12 children. Group reservations are required. Group swimming begins at 10 a.m.

The pool is available to rent for private use on the weekends from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays (2-hour rentals). Newton residents will be charged \$75 per hour and non-residents will be charged \$125 per hour. In addition, renters must pay for the required lifeguards' salaries, which is two to four lifeguards at \$10 per hour.

Punch passes are available to allow frequent swimmers to save money. For youths ages 6-17, 15 passes are \$30 and 25 passes are \$50; adults ages 18-64, 15 passes are \$50 and 25 passes are \$75; and adults ages 65 and older, 15 passes are \$25 and 25 passes are \$40.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed at the pool. Children up to 3 years old must wear some type of flotation device. No diapers are allowed, and infants must wear plastic undergarments.

For more information or to schedule a group event, contact the Newton Recreation Center at (828) 695-4317.



Movies in the Park

Grab a picnic blanket and take your family to Southside Park on Fridays in June and July for Movies in the Park. The free movie starts at dusk and free popcorn is available. All movies are family friendly. Gospel Life Church will provide music and children's activities prior to the movies.

June 14: "The Lorax"

Movie sponsored by Geppeto's

Popcorn sponsored by Katie Goforth/Edward Jones

June 21: "Little Giants"

Movie sponsored by 2 Pink Magnolias

Popcorn sponsored by The Trott House Inn

June 28: "Rise of the Guardians"

Movie sponsored by Medicap

Popcorn sponsored by Gospel Life Church

July 5: "Space Jam"

Movie sponsored by Martin Brothers Nationwide of Newton

Popcorn sponsored by Newsome Tire & Alignment

July 12: "Madagascar 3"

Movie sponsored by Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet

Popcorn sponsored by Kelly's Village Cleaners

Garbage collection reminder

The Newton Police Department Code Enforcement Office is offering a friendly reminder to city residents to move their collection service containers back to their residences on the day of pick-up.

City Code Sec. 50-33 states residents may place garbage containers, trash and recycling bins on the street no earlier than dusk the evening prior to pick-up.

Following the pick up, "Containers shall be removed as far as practical and out of sight, where possible, from the street by the owner or occupant of the premises by midnight on the day of collection."

Residents in violation of the section will receive a warning for the first offense, and a second or future violations will result in a \$25 citation.

Permitted Tree Trimming and Lawncare Contractors in the City of Newton

- Another Tree Service, (828) 461-4090
- Dalton Son's Tree Service, (828) 328-4487
- Evans Tree Service, (828) 328-6440
- Moore's Lawn Service, (828) 244-4715
- Pettis Tree Service, (828) 244-4373
- Sigmon Tree Service, (828) 428-2777
- Tom's Lawn Service, (828) 320-4113
- Tony's Tree Service, (828) 310-6906
- Tree Guys, (828) 381-7100
- White's Tree Service, (828) 428-3836



from the Newton Appearance Commission

In today's economy we are seeing children moving back home or segments of families moving in together to help with expenses. As the number of occupants in a home increases, so might the number of vehicles at the residence.

Sometimes, as car owners, we don't feel comfortable parking our cars on the street. The City of Newton's Ordinance Section 102-289 addresses Off-Street Parking in Residential Districts.

When parking a domestic vehicle in the front yard it shall be placed upon a designated parking area not directly on grass. These areas are defined as an area that has been improved by gravel, pavement, or concrete. Driveways and

other improved parking areas between the property line and the front wall of the dwelling shall have a maximum combined width of 20 feet. The improved area shall not exceed 30 percent of the front yard.

In addressing recreational vehicles and boats, these are prohibited from being parked in the front yard. They can be parked in the rear yard provided they are at least five feet from the rear and side property lines.

A supplemental requirement states that at no time shall the recreational vehicles be occupied for living or connected to any utility service. The vehicle must be highway ready and display a current registration, license and/or inspection tag. The code allows for a maximum of two of this vehicle type to be parked or stored on a residential lot. As stated above, these vehicles shall also be parked on a designated parking area which is defined as improved by gravel, pavement, or concrete.

Finally, the ordinance allows for the parking of only one commercial vehicle per lot in a residential district unless this vehicle is located within an entirely enclosed structure.

For more information contact the Planning Department at (828) 695-4305.

Firefighters of the Year

American Legion Post 16 and the Newton Elks Lodge each recently recognized a City of Newton Firefighter of the Year.



American Legion Post 16 honored Joe Sandoval for his dedication to the fire service. In 2012, he logged in more than 160 hours of training. Sandoval is certified as an Emergency Vehicle Driver, and NC Driver/Operator Pumps and Aerial. He also holds his NC RIT Certification and completed the NC Breathing Equipment School.

Sandoval has been employed with the City of Newton Fire Department for more than two years. He has been married to his wife, Shannon, for 21 years, and they have two children. The Sandovals have resided in Maiden for six years.



The Newton Elks Lodge honored Edward Chapman for his dedication to the fire service. In 2012, he logged in more than 120 hours of training. He is certified as a Level I Fire Inspector, Level 2 Instructor and Fire Officer II.

Chapman has been employed with the City of Newton Fire Department for 14 years. He has been married to his wife, Tonya, for 17 years and they have a son.

The Newton Fire Department is privileged to recognize Sandoval and Chapman through American Legion Post 16 and the Newton Elks Lodge for their hard work and exemplary service to the City of Newton.

Hovis named Assistant City Manager

The City of Newton is pleased to welcome Sean Hovis as the Assistant City Manager. Hovis has more than 20 years of experience in local government with the City of Hickory. He began working in Newton in February.



At the time of his hiring, Hovis said, "Mr. Clark is well respected throughout local government, and I am excited to work with him, staff and members of the community to help keep the City of Newton moving forward."

Since 1999, Hovis served as the City of Hickory Risk Manager developing his expertise in budgeting, safety, personnel management, claims adjusting and training. Prior to that position, Hovis served as a police officer and criminal investigator for the City of Hickory.

"With 20 years of experience, Mr. Hovis stood out from the pool of applicants for his skill and his broad knowledge of municipal operations," Newton City Manager Todd Clark said. "The City of Newton is happy to welcome him on board."

Hovis' responsibilities as Assistant City Manager include administering and coordinating special projects and research, assisting in developing and implementing policies and coordinating and supervising the planning department, recreation and information services.

Hovis earned his master of public administration from Appalachian State University in 2004 and his bachelor of science in criminal justice from Lees McRae College in 2000. He has a current North Carolina Law Enforcement Certificate and is a past board member of the N.C. Association of Local Government Employee Safety Officers.

Hovis is married to Wendy, and they have two children, Nick and Seana.

Sgt. Dan Harris selected Officer of the Year

American Legion Post 16 presented Newton Police Department Sgt. Dan Harris with the 2012 Officer of the Year award, which recognizes outstanding service to the community.

Fellow Newton Police Department officers nominated and selected Harris, noting his leadership qualities and his encouragement of officers to think for themselves and to perform their duties while providing advice and guidance to younger officers who are starting their careers.

"I'm truly blessed and thankful for being a part of a great department. I take great pride in being a police officer for the City of Newton Police Department and really, truly love what I do. I have been fortunate to be around great officers that I respect and have been able to learn from them," Harris said.

"We have a super group of officers working for us, and, in my opinion, they all deserve to be Officers of the Year. To get nominated and receive this award from my fellow officers is a great honor for me. I would like to say thank you to everyone from the bottom of my heart."

Harris started working for the Newton Police Department in Oct. 2004 as a patrolman. In Aug. 2008, he was promoted to his current position as a sergeant on the B platoon. He is also a member of the multi-jurisdictional STAR Team for Catawba County.



City Meetings

City Council	1st and 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
Appearance Commission	2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Zander's Coffee House
Board of Adjustment	No regular schedule
Business Advisory Committee	3rd Wednesday, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers
DNDA	3rd Thursday, 4:00 p.m., Second Floor Conference Room at City Hall
Festival and Events Committee	2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m., Zander's Coffee House
Human Relations Council	No regular schedule
Off-Street Parking Committee	Meets quarterly in the Second Floor Conference Room at City Hall
Parks & Recreation Commission	2nd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Newton Recreation Center
Planning Commission	4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers
Streetscape Master Plan Review Committee	No regular schedule
Subdivision Review Board	2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m., City Hall
Tree Board	2nd Tuesday of every other month, 11:00 a.m., 2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall

City Officials

MAYOR

Anne P. Stedman

CITY MANAGER

Todd Clark

CITY ATTORNEY

John Cilley IV

CITY COUNCIL

Bill Lutz - Mayor Pro Tem

Robert Abernethy, Jr.

Wayne Dellinger

Mary Bess Lawing

Tom Rowe

Wes Weaver

NEWSLETTER REPORTERS

- AdministrationTodd Clark, City Manager
Sean Hovis, Asst. City Mgr./Planning Director
Amy Falowski, City Clerk
- FinanceSerina Hinson, Director
- FireKevin Yoder, Chief
- Human ResourcesTeresa Laffon, Director
- Information SystemsJason Clay, Director
- Parks & RecreationSandra Waters, Director
- PoliceDon Brown, Chief
- Public Works & Utilities ...Wilce Martin, Director
- Newsletter EditorJulie N. Chang, PIO

Did You
KNOW

There are six city parks in Newton:
Southside, Northside/Broyhill,
Westside/Jaycee, East Newton, Jacob
Fork and Little Brook.